

two flattened lobes, at least one flattened lobe corresponding to the locked position and at least one other flattened lobe corresponding to the unlocked position, and a displaceable follower on the other leaf engaged with the cam for providing light resistance to pivoting relative movement of the leaves when said follower is engaged with either one of said flattened lobes;

wherein the cam is located on the fixed leaf and the follower is located on the pivotal leaf;

wherein the follower is formed of a deformable material, and the follower is dimensioned to permit increased elastic deformation thereof by the cam during pivoting relative movement of the leaves;

with the follower being non-deformed when the pivotal leaf is in the locked and unlocked position;

with the follower extending from a raised central portion of the pivotal leaf; and

with the pivotal leaf having an outer longitudinal edge sloped outwardly away from a hinge axis of the leaves and a surface of the sliding member adjacent to pivotal leaf when the pivotal leaf is in the unlocked position.

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 14, 2002. Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 18 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-19 are pending. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards her

invention. The amendments herein are believed to avoid that rejection. Each of the points of unclarity pointed out by the Examiner have been amended to be more clear.

Claims 1-19 were also rejected as being anticipated or rendered obvious by Nardulli alone or in combination with Jensen. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nardulli discloses a clamping-type latch, where the cammed lever 32 causes plates 27 and 28 to clamp rib 19 in the frame when the lever 32 is raised (Figure 4), and release the rib 19 when lowered (Figure 5). Thus, the cam lobe and follower in Nardulli have a completely different function than in Applicant's invention, where the cam and follower are designed to prevent inadvertent rotation between the locked and unlocked positions.

This functional difference is manifested in the complete lack of disclosure in Nardulli of the following fundamental claim elements in independent Claims 1, 18 and 19, and the dependent claims:

Missing element (1) - the pivotal leaf being moveable "to abut the face of one of said overlapping members to prevent displacement there between"

Missing element (2) - "a resistance mechanism for lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in the locked position"

Missing element (1) results from Nardulli not being an abutting-leaf type of lock, but rather a simple clamping latch. Missing element (2) results from there being no disclosure in Nardulli of any resistance being supplied to prevent inadvertent movement from the locked of Figure 4. From all appearances, the Nardulli window could be jiggled causing the latch handle to fall by gravity.

Jensen discloses a latch having a flattened area 18 on a cam 16, but does not supply the

missing elements noted above.

The references also do not disclose Claim 2's element, a resistance mechanism "lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in both the locked and unlocked positions."

The references also do not disclose Claim 5's element of "at least two flattened lobes."

The references also do not disclose Claim 9's element of "the follower being non-deformed when the pivotal leaf is in the locked position."

The references also do not disclose Claim 12's and 13's element of "the cam and follower being located in the central location" "located in abutting inner longitudinal edges of the leaves."

The references also do not disclose Claim 14's and 15's element of "the follower extending from a raised central portion of the pivotal leaf."

The references also do not disclose Claim 16's and 17's element of "the pivotal leaf having an outer longitudinal edge sloped outwardly away from a hinge axis of the leaves and a surface of the sliding member adjacent to pivotal leaf when the pivotal leaf is in the unlocked position."


Claims 18 and 19 also include the limitations noted above in the dependent claims which are missing from the references.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for full allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner determine that an interview with the attorney in charge of this case would be helpful in resolving any remaining

issues of patentability, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Copy of Claims Showing Amendments

1. (amended) A lock for overlapping parallel sliding members, comprising:

a hinge member having two leaves;

the two leaves including a fixed leaf permanently secured to one of overlapping sliding members, and a pivotal leaf pivotally moveable between locked and unlocked positions, to permit sliding of said overlapping members in the unlocked position, and, when turned [an] about 90 [degree angle] degrees to the locked position, to abut the face of one of said overlapping members to prevent displacement there between; and

a resistance mechanism for lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in the locked position, said resistance mechanism [being indestructible in normal operation without] requiring no pre-manipulation of any portion of the lock prior to pivoting movement.

2. (amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the resistance mechanism [is two-state, providing] provides for lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in both the locked and unlocked positions.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said resistance mechanism comprises a cam on one of said leaves having at least one flattened lobe, the at least one flattened lobe corresponding to the locked position, and a displaceable follower on the other leaf engaged with the cam for providing light resistance to pivoting relative movement of the leaves when said follower is engaged with said flattened lobe.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the follower has a planar surface engaged with the cam, the planar surface being engageable with the at least one flattened lobe of cam when the pivotal leaf is in the locked position.

5. The device of claim 2, wherein said resistance mechanism comprises a cam on one of said leaves having at least two flattened lobes, at least one flattened lobe corresponding to the locked position and at least one other flattened lobe corresponding to the unlocked position, and a displaceable follower on the other leaf engaged with the cam for providing light resistance to pivoting relative movement of the leaves when said follower is engaged with either one of said flattened lobes.

6. The device of claim 3, wherein the cam is located on the fixed leaf and the follower is located on the pivotal leaf.

7. The device of claim 5, wherein the cam is located on the fixed leaf and the follower is located on the pivotal leaf.
8. The device of claim 3, wherein the follower is formed of a deformable material, and the follower is dimensioned to permit increased elastic deformation thereof by the cam during pivoting relative movement of the leaves.
9. The device of claim 8 with the follower being non-deformed when the pivotal leaf is in the locked position.
10. The device of claim 5, wherein the follower is formed of a deformable material, and the follower is dimensioned to permit increased elastic deformation thereof by the cam during pivoting relative movement of the leaves.
11. The device of claim 10 with the follower being non-deformed when the pivotal leaf is in the locked and unlocked position.
12. (amended) The device of claim 3 with [the cam and follower being centrally] a central location located in abutting inner longitudinal edges of the leaves, and the cam and follower being located in the central location.
13. (amended) The device of claim 5 with [the cam and follower being centrally] a central location located in abutting inner longitudinal edges of the leaves, and the cam and follower being located in the central location.
14. The device of claim 12 with the follower extending from a raised central portion of the pivotal leaf.
15. The device of claim 13 with the follower extending from a raised central portion of the pivotal leaf.
16. The device of claim 3 with the pivotal leaf having an outer longitudinal edge sloped outwardly away from a hinge axis of the leaves and a surface of the sliding member adjacent to pivotal leaf when the pivotal leaf is in the unlocked position.
17. The device of claim 5 with the pivotal leaf having an outer longitudinal edge sloped

outwardly away from a hinge axis of the leaves and a surface of the sliding member adjacent to pivotal leaf when the pivotal leaf is in the unlocked position.

18. (amended) A lock for overlapping parallel sliding members, comprising:

a hinge member having two leaves;

the two leaves including a fixed leaf permanently secured to one of overlapping sliding members, and a pivotal leaf pivotally moveable between locked and unlocked positions, to permit sliding of said overlapping members in the unlocked position, and, when turned [an] about 90 [degree angle] degrees to the locked position, to abut the face of one of said overlapping members to prevent displacement there between;

a resistance mechanism for lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in the locked position, said resistance mechanism [being indestructible in normal operation without] requiring no pre-manipulation of any portion of the lock prior to pivoting movement;

wherein said resistance mechanism comprises a cam on one of said leaves having at least one flattened lobe, the at least one flattened lobe corresponding to the locked position, and a displaceable follower on the other leaf engaged with the cam for providing light resistance to pivoting relative movement of the leaves when said follower is engaged with said flattened lobe;

wherein the follower has a planar surface engaged with the cam, the planar surface being engagable with the at least one flattened lobe of cam when the pivotal leaf is in the locked position;

wherein the cam is located on the fixed leaf and the follower is located on the pivotal leaf;

wherein the follower is formed of a deformable material, and the follower is dimensioned to permit increased elastic deformation thereof by the cam during pivoting relative movement of the leaves;

with the follower being non-deformed when the pivotal leaf is in the locked position;

with the cam and follower being centrally located in abutting inner longitudinal edges of the leaves;

with the follower extending from a raised central portion of the pivotal leaf; and

with the pivotal leaf having an outer longitudinal edge sloped outwardly away from a hinge axis of the leaves and a surface of the sliding member adjacent to pivotal leaf when the pivotal leaf is in the unlocked position.

19. (amended) A lock for overlapping parallel sliding members, comprising:

a hinge member having two leaves;

the two leaves including a fixed leaf permanently secured to one of overlapping sliding members, and a pivotal leaf pivotally moveable between locked and unlocked positions, to permit sliding of said overlapping members in the unlocked position, and, when turned [an] about 90 [degree angle] degrees to the locked position, to abut the face of one of said overlapping members to prevent displacement there between;

a resistance mechanism for lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in the locked position, said resistance mechanism [being indestructible in normal operation without] requiring no pre-manipulation of any portion of the lock prior to pivoting movement,

wherein the resistance mechanism [is two-state, providing] provides for lightly-resisting pivoting of said pivotal leaf against displacement or rotation in both the locked and unlocked positions;

wherein said resistance mechanism comprises a cam on one of said leaves having at least two flattened lobes, at least one flattened lobe corresponding to the locked position and at least one other flattened lobe corresponding to the unlocked position, and a displaceable follower on the other leaf engaged with the cam for providing light resistance to pivoting relative movement of the leaves when said follower is engaged with either one of said flattened lobes;

wherein the cam is located on the fixed leaf and the follower is located on the pivotal leaf;

wherein the follower is formed of a deformable material, and the follower is dimensioned to permit increased elastic deformation thereof by the cam during pivoting relative movement of the leaves;

with the follower being non-deformed when the pivotal leaf is in the locked and unlocked position;

with the follower extending from a raised central portion of the pivotal leaf; and

with the pivotal leaf having an outer longitudinal edge sloped outwardly away from a hinge axis of the leaves and a surface of the sliding member adjacent to pivotal leaf when the pivotal leaf is in the unlocked position.